has been launched in order to reduce Aggregate Technical and Commercial losses, improving quality of supply of power, increasing revenue collection, improving consumer satisfaction.

* Periodical ratings of State power utilities for assessing the progress of reforms.

* Permitting stand alone systems for accelerating electrification in rural areas.

* Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana was launched for Accelerated rural electrification of villages and rural households.

* Promoting trading of electricity for better utilization of generation assets.

Transparent policies regarding subsidies.

* Accelerated Generation and Supply Programme (AG & SP) to support capacity augmentation through renovation and modernization and new generation schemes.

* Power stations with low PLF have been identified and are linked with better performing stations under the scheme "Partnership for Excellence" for adopting better operational practices.

* Enhancement of Inter-State and Inter-regional transfer of power by strengthening of inter-regional transmission links eventually leading to formation of National Grid.

* Implementation of energy conservation measures. Bureau of Energy Efficiency has been set up under the Energy Conservation Act.

* Open access in distribution in phases as per regulations framed by State Electricity Regulatory Commissions.

**Electrification of villages**

1452. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of 2005-06 had stated that electricity would be provided to the remaining 1,25,000 villages in the country and 2.3 crore households will be provided with electricity connection under Bharat Nirman; and

(b) if so, the number of additional villages that have been electrified in the year 2005-06 and the three quarters of current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The implementing agencies have reported electrification of 9819 villages during 2005-06 & 17211 villages in three quarters of current financial year (upto December, 2006 under RGGVY.

**World Bank's assistance for Power Grid**

1453. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Power Grid Corporation has asked for $3 2 bn from the World Bank agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of transmission and other projects that would be funded in Orissa under this project; and

(d) the time-frame within which all the villages in Orissa would be lighted-up?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) signed a loan agreement for a World Bank loan of US$ 400 million in May, 2006. The loan has become effective in December, 2006. PGCIL has sought a further loan of US$ 1.6 billion from the World Bank. The following projects would be implemented with the loan assistance from the World Bank:

1. Seoni-Wardha-Aloka-Aurangabad Transmission System
2. 2500 MW HVDC Bipole along with Bipole Converter Stations at Balia & Bhiwadi
3. 765 kV Seoni-Bina Transmission Line
4. North-West Transmission Corridor Strengthening Scheme
5. East-West Transmission Corridor Strengthening Scheme
6. Western Region System Strengthening Scheme-ll